

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 (ISO) W

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R 240910Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6279

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1039

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ID PO PT

SUBJ: PRO-INDEPENDENCE PARTIES IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR FORM UNITED FRONT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ACCORDING TO AFP REPORT WHICH APPEARED IN JAKARTA PRESS JAN 24, FRETILIN AND UDT PARTIES IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR HAVE FORMED COALITION AND ISSUED COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGAL LEADING TO TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND ULTIMATE INDEPENDENCE AS "EAST TIMOR."

2. FRETILIN/UDT COMMUNIQUE ALSO ATTACKED APODETI PARTY FOR ADVOCATING INTEGRATION WITH INDONESIA WHICH IT DESCRIBED AS "NEO-COLONIALISM." COMMUNIQUE SAID OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF PROPOSED EAST TIMOR WOULD BE PORTUGUESE AND THAT A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WOULD BE SOUGHT WITH LISBON. IT ALSO CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SURVEILLANCE OVER THE PORTUGUESE TIMOR QUESTION. MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE COALITION FOR ITS APPROVAL AND WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GREAT POWERS, AUSTRALIA AND "COUNTRIES UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INDONESIA." END UNCLASSIFIED
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3. COMMENT: COALITION BETWEEN FRETILIN (REVOLUTIONARY FRONT OF INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR) AND UDT (TIMOR DEMOCRATIC UNION) CONFIRMS PREDICTIONS THAT UDT, WHICH EARLIER ADVOCATED CONTINUED UNION WITH PORTUGAL, WOULD ADOPT INDEPENDENCE GOAL SOUGHT FROM OUTSET BY FRETILIN (AND ITS EARLIER INCARNATION AS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY). THIS DEVELOPMENT LEAVES GOI-SUPPORTED APODETI (TIMOR PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION), WHICH FAVORS INTEGRATION WITH INDONESIA BUT HAS VERY LITTLE TIMORESE SUPPORT, EVEN WEAKER AND MORE ISOLATED. FRETILIN/UDT CALL FOR UN SURVEILLANCE OF DECOLONIALIZATION PROCESS AND BRANDING OF APODETI AS "NEO-COLONIALIST" IS, OF COURSE, ANOTHER TACTIC TO THWART GOI HOPES FOR ENGINEERING MERGER, USPNW APODETI AS ITS AGENT TO GIVE SEMBLANCE OF TIMORESE CONSENT.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, PARTY ALLIANCE, COMMUNIQUES, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART01039
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750029-0243, D750027-0256
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750123/aaaaaule.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRO-INDEPENDENCE PARTIES IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR FORM UNITED FRONT BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PDEV, ID, PO, PT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006